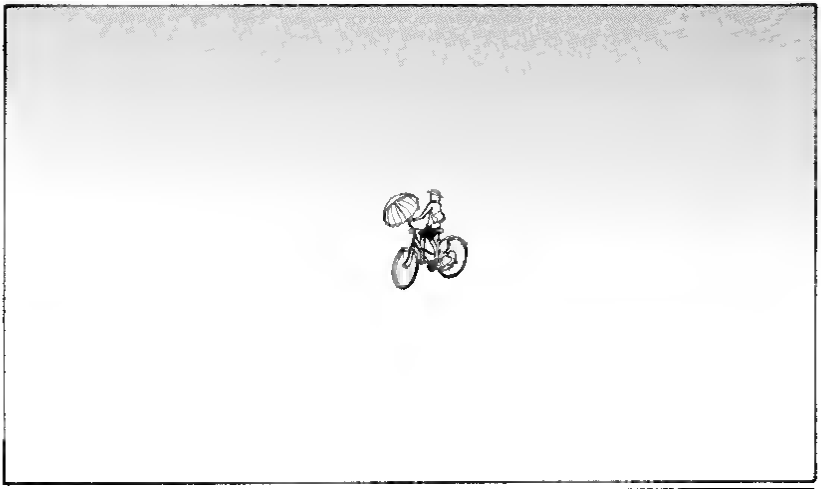
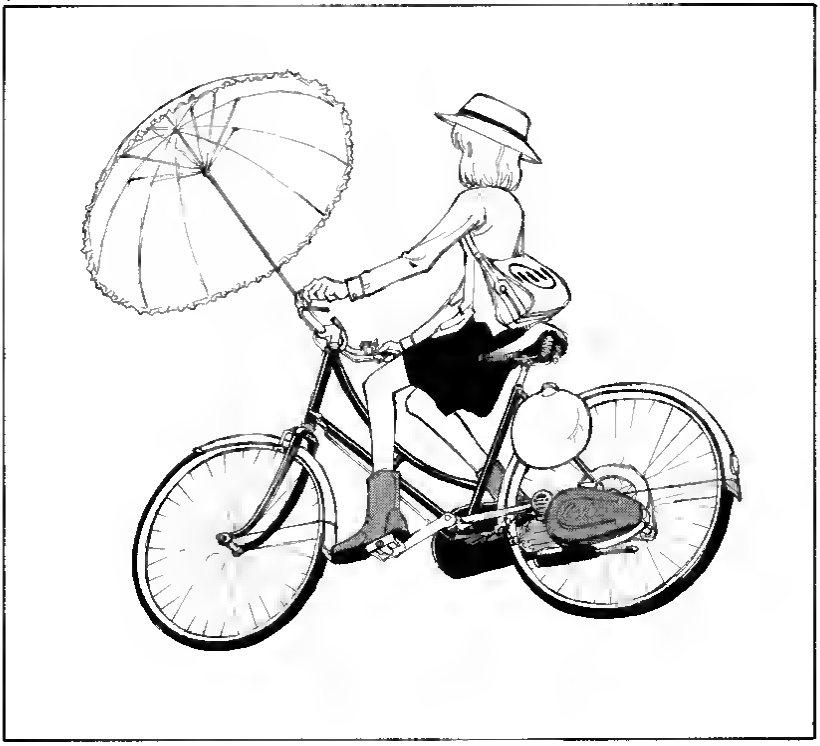
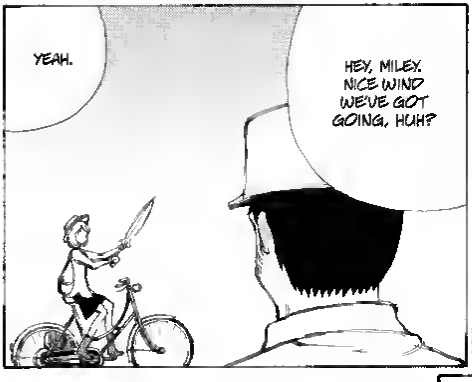
12

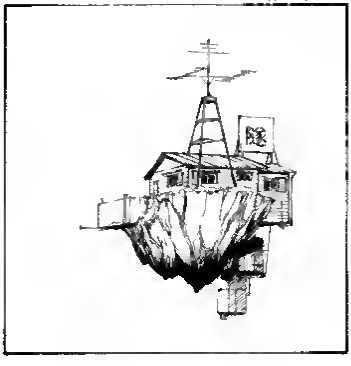
THE SLEEPING GODDESSES

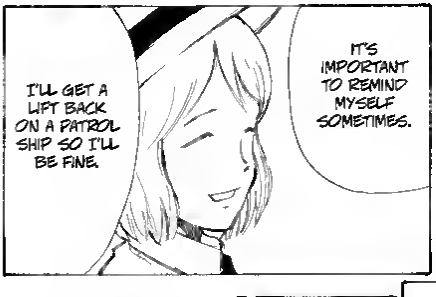
〈VENEREI〉





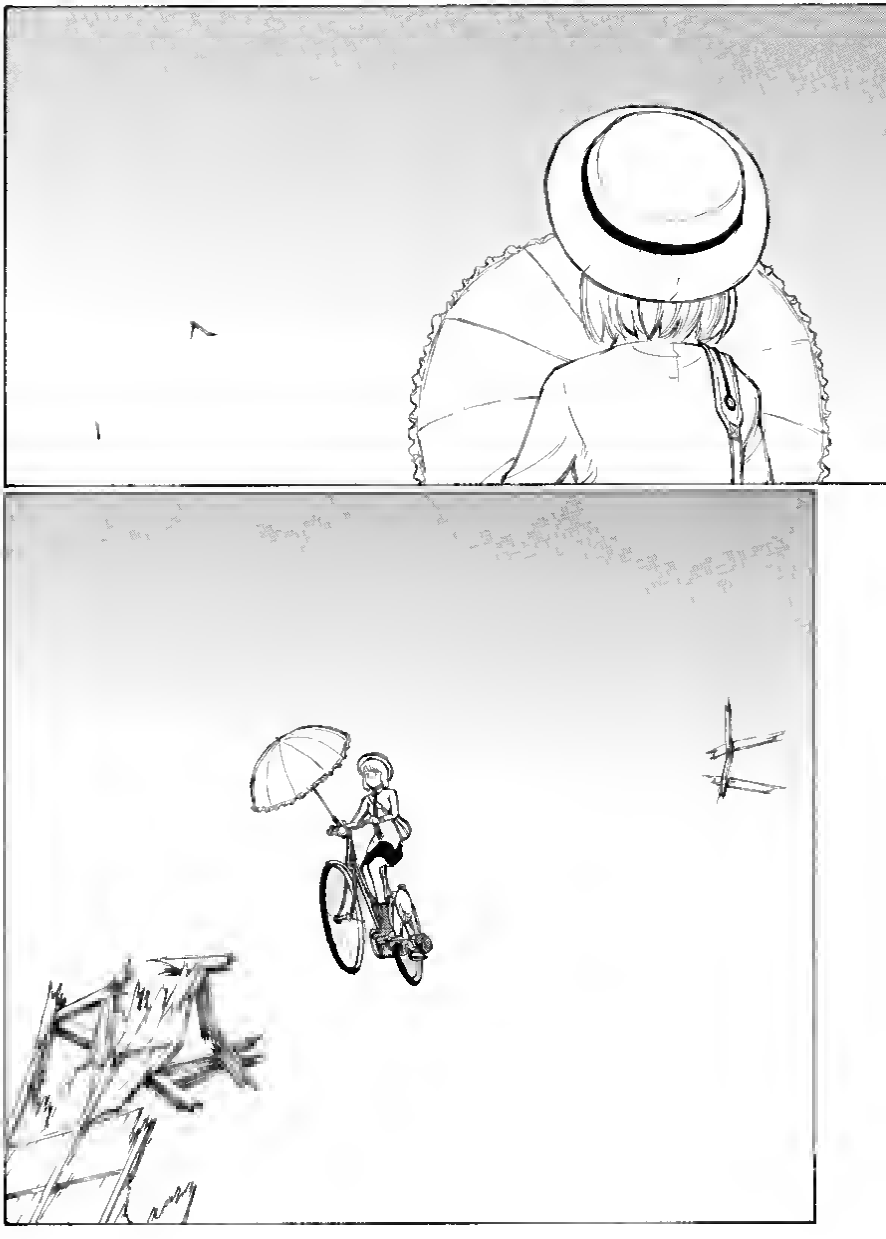

YEAH.
HEY, MILEY. NICE WIND WE'VE GOT GOING, HUH?




I'LL GET A LIFT BACK ON A PATROL SHIP SO I'LL BE FINE.
IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMIND MYSELF SOMETIMES.

I'M NOT SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT BACK TODAY IN THIS WIND.
ARE YOU GOING BEYOND HERE?

MAYBE YOU CAN HITCH A RIDE WITH THEM.
THAT REMINDS ME, THE SPIRIT USER SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE SUPPOSED TO COME HERE ON A FIELD TRIP TODAY.



* GIKAKU
THIS IS THE LAND THAT WAS DEVASTATED BY NA-103* FOUR YEARS AGO.
EVEN NOW IT'S FORBIDDEN TO GO THERE.
THE NEGATIVE SPIRIT POLLUTION IN THIS AREA IS STILL SUBSTANTIAL AND PURIFYING IT IS PROVING TO BE A TOUGH JOB.
...USED TO LIVE THERE AND SUFFERED IN THAT CATASTROPHE.
MAYBE SOME OF YOU HERE TODAY...
...THEY ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING GOD-RELATED DISASTERS LIKE THIS ONE.
SPIRIT USERS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE, BUT...
I'M SURE SOME OF YOU ARE ALREADY PICKING UP BAD VIBES FROM THIS PLACE.
THERE'S THE RISK THAT WE COULD BE SWALLOWED BY THE SPIRIT AS WELL...
...SO WE WON'T BE LANDING.

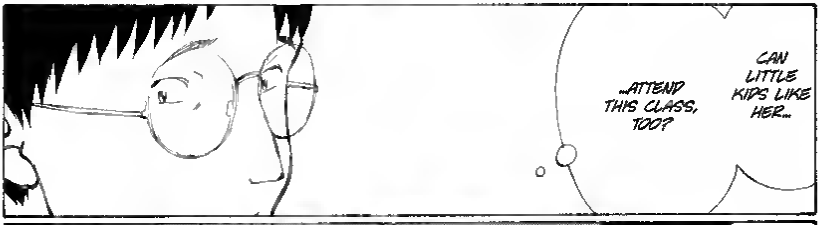
ANYONE AIMING TO BE A SPIRIT USER HAS TO START BY TAKING THE SPIRIT MASTER QUALIFICATION EXAM.
AFTER YOU PASS THE EXAM, THE CITY WILL AUTOMATICALLY ENTRUST YOU WITH TAKING CARE OF SUCH THINGS.
AS A SPIRIT MASTER YOU WILL BE DEPLOYED IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS...
...TO BE A LICENSED SPIRIT USER.
ONCE YOU BECOME A SPIRIT USER, THE CITY WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH ALL OF YOUR DAILY NEEDS IN ABUNDANCE.
BUT IN EXCHANGE, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO TAKE ON A CORRESPONDING RESPONSIBILITY.
LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PLACE NOW.

THAT'S THE PURIFICATION SANATORIUM.
THERE ARE TWO SUCH FACILITIES IN GARUIA CITY.
IT'S NOT THAT WE'RE HIDING THEM, BUT WE DON'T EXACTLY WANT TO PUBLICIZE THEM EITHER.
HUH?
ORDINARY PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE PURIFICATION SANATORIA.
THIS PLACE SYMBOLIZES THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF BEING A SPIRIT USER.
...AND GIVEN TREATMENT.
SPIRIT USERS WHO HAVE BEEN ABSORBED BY THE SPIRIT OF A SPIRIT OBJECT ARE ADMITTED HERE...
MISS ERANKSTON?

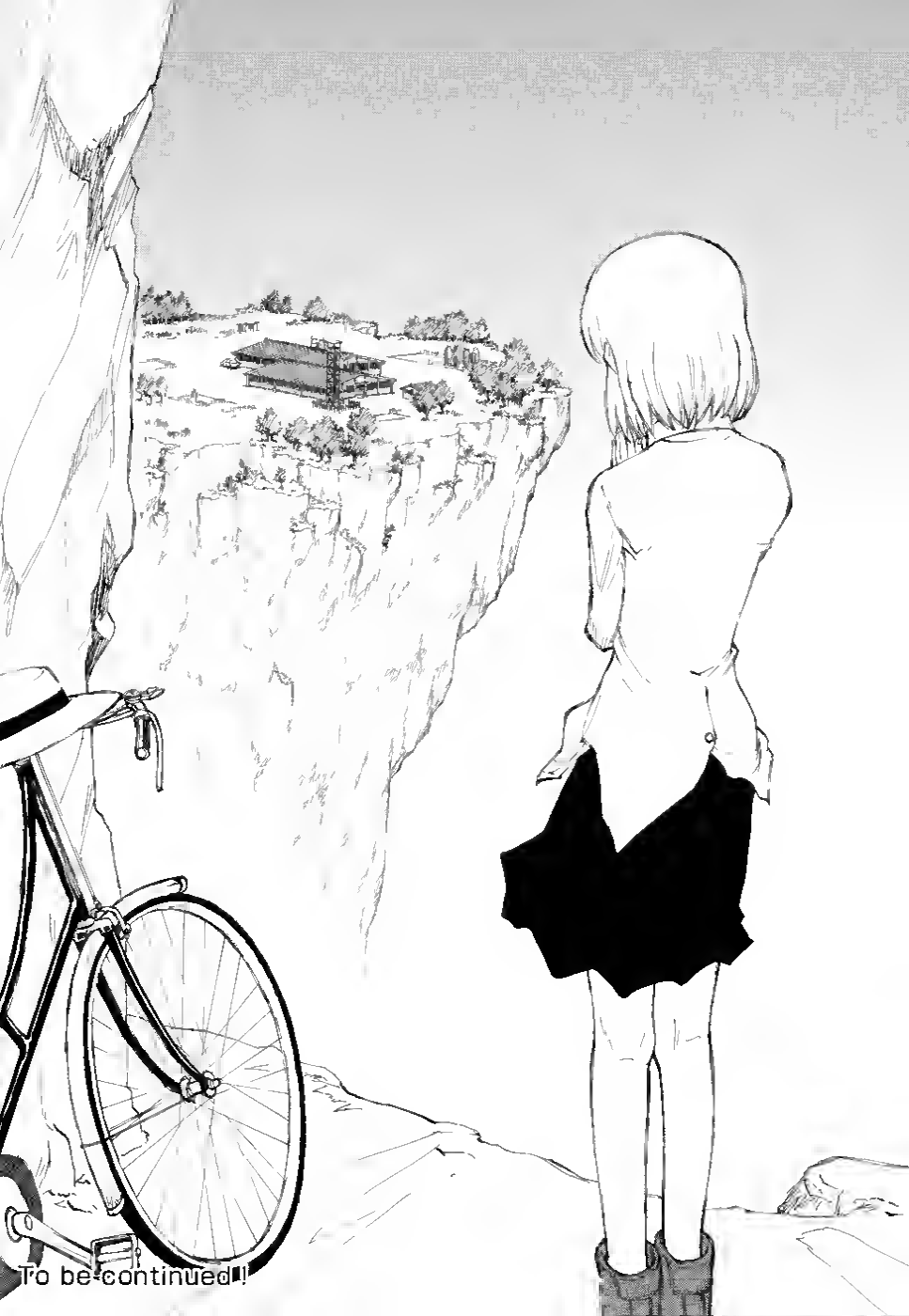
WELL, I SAID "TREATMENT," BUT...
...NO HUMAN BEING HAS EVER RETURNED TO NORMAL AFTER BEING ABSORBED BY A SPIRIT.
NOT AS FAR AS I KNOW, ANYWAY.
YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO THINK IT OVER.
IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MINDS ABOUT GETTING LICENSED AND JUST PURSUE SPIRIT AS A HOBBY.
FURTHERMORE,
FEMALE SPIRIT USERS HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY THAT ONLY FEMALES CAN DO.

THEY ARE BEING TREATED AT THIS FACILITY RIGHT NOW.

SEVEN FEMALE SPIRIT USERS WERE LOST IN THE EFFORT TO EXORCIZE NA-103.


CAN LITTLE KIDS LIKE HER...
...ATTEND THIS CLASS, TOO?

THE GOSSIPS OF THIS WORLD...
...REFER TO THEM INSULTINGLY AS HOLY PROSTITUTES, BUT...
...THAT, TOO, IS A ROLE ESSENTIAL FOR THE STABILITY OF OUR SOCIETY.


To be continued!